



# Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,  
We are very pleased with the way that everyone has settled back into daily school life. There is a lovely working atmosphere around the place and we are enjoying face-to-face learning.

With the current restrictions around contact tracing set to last at least another month, we will need to maintain the current organisation for arrival, dismissal and access to the school site, for some time yet. Thank you for your cooperation and support while we have to use these systems to keep everyone safe and comply with government regulations and guidelines.

I want to take a moment to thank Brom Breetvelt from Words Incorporated who has published our newsletter for many years. Brom has provided us with an excellent service over this time and at a school-friendly price. With us moving to emailed newsletters, we no longer require his printing services, but we would like to recognise and thank Brom and his team for his contribution to the communications of the Blockhouse Bay School community.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Neil Robinson  
Principal



TERM TWO CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020	
Tuesday 30th June	Mid-year reports come home
Wednesday 1st July	Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
Thursday 2nd July	Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
Friday 3rd July	3.00pm -Term Two Ends



*Our new Playspace is coming along nicely and the children are enjoying seeing the new area being constructed. We have had some unforeseen issues as well as the rain which has caused some delays. But we expect that the children will be enjoying this new space in a couple of weeks time.*



## Blockhouse Bay

A future National Geographic photographer's very first perfect shot...



Right here...



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## **TRAINEE TEACHER**

From time to time, we host trainee teachers to help them to get experience in well run classrooms. As part of this arrangement, over the next month, trainee Andrea Shepherd will be placed in Room 18 with Megan Le Gallias. Welcome Andrea.

## **2020 Dates**

Term Two      Ends Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – 3.00pm finish  
Term Three    Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July      to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Term Four     Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

## **Teacher Only Days**

- \* Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Friday of Labour Weekend)
- \* Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November (end of week 6 of term four)
- \* Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (day after school closes at the end of the year)

## **CHILDREN RIDING TO SCHOOL**

As reported previously, only year 6 children can ride their bikes to school unless they are accompanied by their parent.

Some parents also like their children to ride their scooters to school and this can be great exercise for them. We do not want to stifle these fun physical activities, but we do need to place some rules around this to ensure that all children and visitors on the school grounds are safe.

- The riding of bicycles to and from school can only be done independently by Year 6 students and only after they have permission from the Principal.
- Shoes with wheels cannot be worn at school during school hours
- The rack for scooters and bikes is next to the netball courts and backs on to the pre-school. We strongly advise these are locked during the day to ensure that they are not taken.
- Parents are entirely responsible for children using scooters and any toys with wheels and we cannot accept any responsibility for their use either before/after school or at other times e.g. weekends.
- Parents may wish to provide safety padding/helmets etc. and to tell their children to wear them, but this is up to the parents to enforce.
- Only children who own the toys can use them at school. This means that children who do not have permission from their parents, cannot use them.
- Children using wheel-based toys need to be mindful of other visitors to the school and not to use them at peak times or in areas where there are lots of children or adults.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM DELAYS**

Parents are experiencing some delays in delivery of their school uniform items and our suppliers have apologised for this. They are experiencing difficulties in getting the clothing to NZ due to the Covid 19 crisis and have advised that this could go on for some weeks yet. Children who are waiting for these items to arrive are asked to wear clothing that is as close to the uniform colours as possible. Thank you for your patience.

## **Supporting Success in your School - \$500.00!**

If you're a parent, staff member or a member of the school community and draw down a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate \$500 to your chosen participating school.

Please find the flyer attached for your school newsletter, Facebook page and enrolment packs. For more information please do not hesitate to contact me or please click on this

link: <https://www.asb.co.nz/promotions/supporting-success-in-your-school.html>

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

As there are some families that are returning to school soon, we are publishing this advice again so that everyone knows what is going on.

For the time being at least, our leaving times are:

2.55pm - Rooms 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and their older brothers and sisters

3.10pm - Rooms 21, 22, 23, 12, 13, 15 and their older brothers and sisters

3.20pm - Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14

We have made videos so that families can see what these will be like every morning and the links to these are below. Please show the video about the gate you will use to your children.

- There are four entry and exit gates around the school.
  - [Countdown Black gate](#)
  - [Library Gate](#)
  - [Orange Driveway Gate](#)
  - [Yellow gate next to Room 9 on Gill Crescent](#)
- Children walking home will leave the school at 3.00pm
- Children going to After School Care will be taken by a teacher to the Technology Room at 3.00pm

### What if my child is late or needs to be picked up or dropped off during the school day?

- Gates will be locked at 8.50am
- If your child is late please come to the Yellow gate next to Room 9 on Gill Crescent and text the number on the gate **0275696916**.
- If you need to drop off or collect your child during the school day, please come to the office entrance from the staff car park on Gill Crescent, and the office staff will assist you
- We will record the name and contact details of parents and whānau who do come on the school grounds so contact tracing can take place

There will be exceptions made to this for example for new children to the school and if a child is hurt and needs to be collected. Parents who wish to talk to us about entry to the school site can ring 6279940 or email [office@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:office@blockhousebay.school.nz) and we will discuss it with you.

## Family Zone Parent Resource

The school uses a resource called School Zone to teach digital citizenship and to help us to make sure that the children are safe online. For a relatively low annual fee, parents can use a similar product at home known as Family Zone. We often recommend this product to parents as it is a cost-effective way of helping keep children digitally safe at home. Go to the following link for more details <https://www.familyzone.com/anz/families>

This month, Family Zone have provided the following information for parents to help with this process:

### **Blog Post: Screen-time can be a lifeline ...**

The quality of our kids' online experiences matter as much as the quantity.

[Read more...](#)

### **App Review: TikTok**

TikTok has launched a range of safety features designed to address mounting privacy and abuse concerns. [Read more...](#)

### **Webinar On-Demand: Remote Learning with Family Zone Premium**

This webinar recording will demonstrate how to keep kids safe & on-task at home. [Click here to watch the recording.](#)

### **Feature Guides**

Share the following Feature Guides with your community so they can learn how to use some of Family Zone's important features at home.

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 **Dr Nitin Raniga**

BDS (Otago) DClinDent (Otago) MOrth RCSEd MRACDS (Orth)

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